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ABSTRACT

Over a 3-year period (1985-1987) site visits were made to selected U.S. libraries that focus on climbing or mountaineering as a specific area for comprehensive collection building to survey their monographic holdings, serial holdings, and special collections. The monographic collections were compared to two lists of outstanding mountaineering books, the annotated bibliography of the Farquhar collection (1980), and a list of 50 books published in Neate's guide to climbing literature (1980). This report provides assessments of the collections of two special libraries (the Adirondack Museum and the Yosemite Research Center); 11 club libraries (American Alpine Club, Appalachian Mountain Club Library, Colorado Mountain Club, Explorers Club, Mazamas, Mountaineering Foundation of Chicago, Mountaineers, National Geographic Society Library, New York Racquet Club, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, and Sierra Club); eight academic libraries (Dartmouth College, Princeton University, University of California-Berkeley, University of California-Los Angeles, University of Colorado-Boulder, University of Washington, University of Wyoming, and Yale University); and five public libraries (Denver Public Library, the Library of Congress, Los Angeles County Public Library-Malibu, New York Public Library, and Teton County Public Library). Each entry provides the library's location, details its current collection, and reports its collectian policy. Three tables compare the relative rankings of the club, university, and public libraries studied in terms of the number of listed titles owned. (22 references) (SD)

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U.S. MOUNTAINEERING LIBRARIES; A SURVEY

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Most public and college libraries collect some literature on the subject of mountaineering, to meet library users' recreational interests. However, the scholar researching the history of mountaineering, or the expedition leader searching for route descriptions for a remote area will probably find these collections inadequate.

Only a few libraries in the U.S. have large enough mountaineering collections to support the in depth needs of researchers. Excluding private book collectors and book sellers, most of these libraries are of three types: public libraries, academic libraries, and club libraries. A few, affiliated with other kinds of institutions, are classified as special libraries.

To identify the major institutionally owned mountaineering collections in the United States, two standard reference works, the Directory of Special Libraries and Information Centers, and Subject Collections, were consulted. This list was supplemented by pursuing the list of sources mentioned in one of the more wide ranging examples of contemporary mountaineering scholarship, Climbing in North America (Jones, 1979), and notations about club libraries in the International Directory of Mountaineering Clubs and Organizations (Pokorny et al., 1979).

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The authors of this report selected for study those libraries identified as focusing on climbing or mountaineering as a specific area for comprehensive collection building. Given this criteria, some rather small libraries with limited collections are included, while other very large research libraries which can be expected to have strong mountaineering collections, if only because of their omnivorous collecting habits, are omitted. Notable among the latter category are the Harvard University Libraries. This omissions may be addressed in the future.

Over a three year period, 1985-1987, the authors personally visited each of the libraries included in this study. Mountaineering libraries are not evenly distributed around the country. They are concentrated in the Northeastern states, along the West Coast, and in the mountain states of Wyoming and Colorado. The notable exception is the Mountaineering Foundation of Chicago Library, in Illinois.

The library survey focuses on three areas: monographic holdings (the book collection), serial holdings (periodical subscriptions), and special collections (rare, unusual or unique materials).

In order to have a consistent measure by which these libraries' monographic collections could be compared, two lists of outstanding mountaineering books were selected. They are the annotated bibliography of the Farquhar collection (Cox, 1980) and the list of "Fifty Books in Mountaineering," published in the first edition of Neate's guide to climbing literature (Neate, 1980, pp. 29-30).

While both lists sample worldwide mountaineering literature, and include eighteen titles in common, the two lists differ in focus. Farquhar was a private collector with special interests in the earliest writings about European alpinism, the conquest of Everest, and the history of the Sierra Nevadas. He pursued rare first editions. The published bibliography highlights ninty-six outstanding items from his two thousand volume collection, which was bequeathed to the UCLA Library.

Neate is a comprehensive bibliographer of mountaineering literature. Her list is a reader's guide to writing about climbing. It focuses on readability rather than rarity; the earliest title on the list was published in 1843. Neate includes some delightful but lesser known writers, as well as acknowledged classics. Neate's list is perhaps more even handed in geographical coverage than the Farquhar bibliography. Works on Everest and the Sierras are included, but not as prominently.

At each library visited, the two lists were checked against the library's catalog. Tables I - III compare the relative rankings of libraries surveyed, in terms of number of listed titles owned. UCLA has a special advantage, of course, in that it owns the Farquhar Collection, one of the standards chosen for comparison. Even granted that, the American Alpine Club stands out as the premier mountaineering library in the country.

These rankings, based on the comparison of the library's holdings to the Farquhar bibliography and the Neate list, do not provide a good measure of a library's current acquisitions. The most recent date on either list is 1974. Information provided by

libraries visited varied from impressionistic statements about the level of collecting to specific dollar amounts spent on new books. Most had experienced some fluctuations in level of support over the years. Two libraries profiled here, the Denver Public Library and the New York Public Library, have made decisions to de-emphasize mountaineering. At the other end of the spectrum, the American Alpine Club Library attempts to buy everything currently published on the subject and the Mazama Library has started a program to purchase important older works.

Serials holdings were the second focus of the library survey. At each library visited, the authors noted ongoing periodical subscriptions and backfiles owned. Three publications have already resulted from this part of the study (Seiser, 1987; Seiser and Lockerby, 1987 and 1988). In fact, the checklist of mountaineering serial titles is still a work in progress. As a starting point a number of references were checked. The British bibliography, the Alpine Club Library Catalogue (1982) came closest to providing an authoritative list of English language mountaineering serials, but was far from comprehensive, especially lacking in the area of small U.S. club publications.

As new libraries were visited in the course of the study, new periodical titles were discovered and added to the working list. It has not been possible to revisit libraries to check holdings against the revised list of titles, so a statistical comparison would be misleading, suggesting greater accuracy than the data allows. However, in the authors' judgement, the American Alpine Club Library stands out as the premier mountaineering collection

in this area as well.

Special collections - the rare, unusual or unique material owned by each library - are discussed in the descriptions of the individual libraries that follow. Club libraries often collect summit registers from local peaks, and are usually the repository for club archives and photographic collections. University libraries tend to peruse manuscript collections or the personal papers of noted mountaineers. Many libraries had a regional focus to their collecting policy. One library surveyed, the Adirondack Museum Library, was so specialized in subject matter collected that it is not counted in the Tables comparing monographic holdings.

Some of the club and university libraries described here are not open to the general public. Researchers should write or call in advance to obtain permission to use these libraries. Consult the current edition of the American Library Directory for names, addresses and telephone numbers. The directory, which is published annually, is also a good source of statistical information.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES

Adirondack Museum: The Adirondack Museum, on the shores of Blue Mountain Lake, in the heart of the Adirondacks, hired its first professional librarian in 1965. The Museum Library attempts to collect everything pertaining to Adirondack Park and the Adirondack Mountains. It is in the enviable position of having an unrestricted acquisitions budget, thanks to ample private funding. The book collection is so narrowly focused that it was not ranked in this study, but it exceeds 8,000 volumes, supplemented by 600 linear feet of manuscript material, 12 vertical files of clippings and ephemera, 40,000 pictures, an extensive map collection and 350 periodical titles. Only a small portion of the collection actually pertains to climbing, but is very complete for this region. Much of the mountaineering material concerns two organizations, the Adirondack Mountain Club, and the Adirondack 46'ers. (The Adirondack Mountain Club does maintain its own library in Glenn Falls, New York. It was not visited in this study.) vs

Yosemite Research Center: Located in the attic of one of the original log Park Center buildings in Yosemite National Park, the Yosemite Research Center also focuses on a very small portion of the planet, albeit a significant one for the climbing world. It collects information on all aspects of the Park, including natural resources and human activities, present and past. The

Center houses the AAC Sierra Nevada Depository Library, so the book collection does include some titles about mountaineering in areas beyond the park boundaries. Without the AAC collection, this specialized library would not have achieved its 15th place ranking in this study.

Founded in 1923, the Library serves both park personnel and visitors. It maintains two small branches to serve personnel at interpretative centers within the park. The Library has a full time librarian whose salary is paid by the Park Service, which also provides the space. The Library's budget for accessions, supplies and binding comes from the Yosemite Association, a non-profit organization "dedicated to the support of the Yosemite National Park through a program of visitor services, publications and membership activities." It also receives gifts from individuals.

In addition to a book collection of 4,000 volumes and subscriptions to 100 periodicals, the Research Center holds the National Park archives, containing unpublished records, reports and correspondence. A large collection of clippings, pamphlets and ephemera is arranged by Dewey classification, and cross indexed by author, title and subject. The librarian maintains a place name file giving map coordinates. The Center is actively microfilming local newspapers and has an oral history file of taped interviews. There is a significant amount of material on Yosemite climbing history among these varied resources. vs

CLUB LIBRARIES

American Alpine Club: The premier mountaineering library in the country is located in a converted fire house near Central Park. Established in 1916, the AAC Library was first housed within the New York Public Library. (For a history of the library, see von Henning, 1978). In recent years, the club has employed a professional librarian; she is extremely knowledgeable about the collection. The scope of the collection is strictly limited to mountaineering and exploration of the arctic regions, with relevant supporting material from disciplines such as geology and medicine. Unlike most mountain club libraries, the AAC does not collect material on conservation or outdoor recreation. The library is truly international in scope, including material in most major languages.

The collection was estimated at 15,000 volumes in 1985, of which 3,000 were duplicate volumes housed in the AAC's five depository libraries. The depository collections are located at the University of Colorado Library (Boulder), the Teton County Public Library (Jackson), the Mountaineers Library (Seattle), the Los Angeles County Public Library (Malibu), and the Yosemite Research Center (Yosemite National Park).

The AAC library receives approximately 150 current periodical titles, many on exchange from mountaineering clubs around the world, and has backsets for perhaps 150 additional periodical titles. The library card catalog includes indexing for selected articles in some major mountaineering journals, as well as

listing books. The map collection is indexed but not kept current. The library has a large collection of lantern slides, photographs, and albums, most unindexed. A videotape collection of more than fifty climbing films was recently acquired. The AAC archives are in the keeping of the Executive Secretary, in the club offices adjoining the library.

The AAC attempts to acquire all important new publications on the subject of mountaineering, as well as fill in any gaps identified in the collection. The library budget is not unlimited, but individual AAC members have been generous over the years; the library was bequeathed several significant collections. The library also receives review copies and club exchanges. vs

Appalachian Mountain Club Library: In a historic section of Boston, adjoining town houses have been converted to form the AMC Headquarters. The circulating library occupies a room on the street level. The research library takes up most of the fifth floor. The library has been growing since the club was founded in 1876. (For more on its history see Lovett, 1966, and May 1951). Established as a mountaineering collection, the library also collects material on conservation, natural history, and outdoor recreation. The collection is international in scope, though focusing on the Appalachian Mountains and New England. The Frederick Kilbourne Collection of over 400 volumes concerning the White Mountains of New Hampshire is notable. The library has a limited acquisition budget, and depends on gifts and review

copies.

When visited in 1985, the Library was staffed part-time on a volunteer basis by a retired professional librarian. Other volunteers maintained serials check-in and the map collection. The library automatically acquires all U.S.G.S. maps for the mountainous states. AMC hut registers are stored in the library, as is one of the club's treasures, a substantial collection of original Vittorio Stella photos, documenting the expeditions of the Duke of Abruzzi. The library also has a collection of snapshots of AMC activities, arranged by subject.

The AMC Library collection of roughly 4,000 volumes ranked eighth overall, putting it in the same league as two of its West Coast counterparts, the Mazama Library and the Mountaineers Library. vs

Colorado Mountain Club: The CMC Library is located in the basement of the Denver Club House, next door to the Love to Drink Tavern. The CMC Boulder Group also maintains a small library, and the Colorado Springs Group is reputed to be starting one; these were not visited. The main library has a small budget, and is maintained by a volunteer committee. The CMC has an active newsletter exchange program with other U.S. mountain clubs, but these do not seem to be systematically retained. CMC does not have bound runs of some major mountaineering periodicals. The book collection focuses on the Rockies, but it is worldwide in scope. It ranked 16th in this study. The library maintains a collection of Colorado topographic maps. Special materials

include Colorado summit registers and the Leonard correspondence concerning the first ascent of Ship Rock. The CMC archives, located in an adjacent room, are administered separately.

Explorers Club: The Explorers Club headquarters is an elegant Gothic revival mansion in New York City. The location of the club library is perhaps indicative of its status, a bleak "back stairs" area, when visited in 1985. Established by a bequest in the 1930's, the library's collection reflects the entire range of club interests: exploration and adventure travel worldwide, including geography, botany, zoology, anthropology, and expeditionary mountaineering. The library's budget supported a modest number of periodical subscriptions and a salary for a part-time librarian. Books were acquired as gifts from members or review copies from publishers. Consequently, the collection is spotty, and, in the area of mountaineering, ranked last in this study. Fortunately, the American Alpine Club is within walking distance. vs

Mazamas: Located in Northwest Portland in a 2nd floor loft of an old two story office building, the origin of the Mazama Library is uncertain. The first mention of a Library Committee is in the 1915 Mazama annual, and its founding is usually given as 1916. The library, which is now approaching 4,000 volumes, is ran by volunteers. It is interesting to note that in a forty year span there were only three persons serving as Club Librarian. The strength of their dedication and those who followed them enabled

the Mazama Library to rank seventh overall (tied with Dartmouth) in this study and second only to the American Alpine Club among club libraries. The library has an active acquisition program, and is currently trying to purchase some of the important older works that the collection lacks. The collection, for a club library, is surprisingly narrow in focus, with current purchases focused on mountaineering, rock climbing, skiing, and hiking and subjects allied to these like wilderness first aid.

The library subscribes to or maintains periodical exchanges with all the major english language mountaineering journals, along with a few foreign ones. It also has a small collection of local climbing club journals.

There are several special collections housed in the library, the largest, and perhaps most important is the collection of summit registers from most major peaks in Oregon. This collection has been filmed and is now available to the public in microfiche format. It should be noted that the club stopped placing and collecting summit registers in the early 1980's. Other collections include several volumes of aerial photographs taken in the 1930's of the major mountains in Oregon and Southwest Washington; the Fred Kiser photograph collection, and the scrapbooks of William Gladstone Steele. The Kiser and Steele collections, along with other albums in the library constitute a major collection of early mountaineering and other outdoor activities in the Pacific Northwest. The Kiser collection has had some restoration work done and the Steele scrapbooks have been filmed. The library has a small map collection which is

currently in storage.

The library is not open to the general public, however it has been made accessible to researchers upon request to the Library Committee. rl

Mountaineering Foundation of Chicago: In 1985, the Chicago Mountaineering Club (ChMC) transferred its assets to the Mountaineering Foundation of Chicago, to protect them from possible litigation. Chief among these was the John Speck Memorial Library, established in 1950. For a history of the Library, see Mullen and Pokorny, 1980/81. The book collection has grown primarily through gifts, and is not large, ranking 19th out of 20th in this study. However, it may well be the best collection of its kind between Colorado and New York. The catalog has been published (Pokorny, 1976). The library's pamphlet file is a gold mine, containing bits and pieces of information about mountaineering organizations and publications world wide, collected in the course of compiling an international directory (Pokorny et al, 1979). Over the years, ChMC has been active in soliciting publication exchanges with other mountain clubs around the world, and has lengthy runs of major journals. The Library owns maps, but acquisitions have been curtailed for lack of space. It also houses the ChMC archives. When visited in 1986, the library was in very cramped quarters, in the basement of a ChMC member's suburban home. George Pokorny, who has faithfully tended the collection on a volunteer basis for some years, was seeking another location for it. vs

Mountaineers: The Mountaineers Library is located in a spacious room, complete with fireplace, in the club's headquarters. It was founded in 1915, although the library was not cataloged until 1922. The collection currently (1988) numbers around 3,500 books and over 300 bound periodical volumes. The Mountaineers employ a librarian who is also the publications officer of the club, along with other duties. There is a small budget for current acquisitions. The collection is supplemented by housing the Mountaineers Foundation Library, a collection of books on conservation and ecological subjects, and a branch of the American Alpine Club library. The strength of these collections rank the 9th overall and 4th in club libraries, behind the Mazamas and Appalachian Trail Club.

The library currently subscribes to 30 to 40 journals. In addition it has a collection of club newsletters of which it keeps only the most current issues. The library also houses a small map collection, mostly of the Pacific Northwest.

The special collections are photo albums of historic outings and a collection of trail condition reports of trails in Washington State. Much of the club archives and summit registers have been placed in the care of the University of Washington. rl

National Geographic Society Library: The library is located in the Society's high rise headquarters in the center of Washington, D.C. The NGS Library is comprised of four divisions: Books and Periodicals, the Map Collection, the Illustrations Library, and

the Film Library. The Library is beautifully appointed, carpeted, climate controlled and will soon be fully automated.

The NGS Library online public access catlog, ORBIS, lists news clipping files, articles in NGS publications, research reports and maps, as well as books and periodicals. It can be searched from any terminal with access to the NGS mainframe. At the time of the visit - January, 1989 - retrospective conversion was still in progress.

The Books and Periodicals section supports staff research worldwide on all topics of interest to the National Geographic Society. In the area of mountaineering, the collection primarily contains background research material about mountain regions, and publications by and about mountaineers who have received NGS grants. Barry Bishop and Norman Dyhrenforth are notable grantees. The Books and Periodicals section has copies of the official research reports submitted by grantees, and the Illustrations Library retains copies of all photographs taken on sponsored expeditions. Other than that, the Library does not generally collect archival material.

The mountaineering book colection is not especially strong as compared to the Neate and Cox lists; the NGS Library ranked 21st overall in this study. What is striking is the number of authors from the Neate and Cox lists who NGS has employed to write for its own publications: Sir John Hunt, Tom Longstaff, Sir Arnold Lunn, Fosco Maraini, Eric Shipton, Francis Smythe, and Harold Tilman. In contrast to mountaineering, the related topic of polar exploration is singled out for mention in NGS publicity as

an area of special strength in the library's collections.

The NGS Library periodical collection specializes in publications of foreign geographic societies - NGS maintains exchange agreements around the world. To insure access to articles of potential interest, the Library maintains its own clipping service for 16 major international newspapers and 500 periodicals. Aside from a set of Mountain World and an ongoing subscription to Alpine Journal, it does not collect mountaineering serials.

The Map Collection is one of the Library's richest resources. The NGS is a depository for the U.S. Geographical Survey, the U.S. Defense Mapping Agency, the National Ocean Service, and various foreign mapping agencies. vs

New York Racquet Club: The Racquet Club looks just like you might expect an exclusive men's club to look. The library, paneled in dark wood, has a fireplace, and leather arm chairs. The carefully selected collection focuses on the history of sport, and contains an impressive array of first editions in many areas, including mountaineering, tended by two part-time librarians. The catalog has been published (Dictionary Catalogue, 1970). The Racquet Club Library is a gem, but the AAC and the NYPL are a lot more accessible to outside users, and have more extensive climbing collections.

Potoamc Appalachian Trail Club: A town house near DuPont Circle is home for the District of Columbia-based Potomac Appalachian

Trail Club. The library fills a room on the top floor. The club has a climbing section, which publishes the newsletter Up Rope!, but the library has little to offer climbers. PATC owns only a small fraction of the titles on the Neate and Cox lists, and is the lowest ranked mountaineering collection in this study. The library is stronger on the subject of walking and hiking, and includes some material on bicycling, caving and conservation. PATC subscribes to 90 periodical titles, including a number of eastern seaboard trail club newsletters. Aside from a few foreign hiking club newsletters, the Library's collection is focused on the United States. The library contains a small pamphlet file and a reference collection of guidebooks. The PATC archives are in a separate locked room. When visited in January of 1989, the club did not have a library volunteer, and the library was in some disarray. vs

Sierra Club: The William E. Colby Memorial Library is located in the heart of San Francisco. It is named in honor of the Club's third president and long time Board Member, serving from 1900 to 1946. He was the club's third president, succeeding John Muir and Joseph LeConte.

The Sierra Club Library was founded in 1902. It now houses over 7,000 books and has two librarians on its staff. The library does extensive interlibrary loan. Its subject interests besides mountaineering include: environmental policy, conservation, natural history, energy policy, John Muir and the Sierra Nevada. The book budget is adequate for continued growth,

with Club funds and gifts being the main source of income. In recent years the focus of the Colby Library has shifted so that mountaineering no longer has the importance it once had, which may account for its 13th place in this study.

The library has over 1,300 periodical volumes, included are long runs of the major mountaineering journals, including many foreign journals. An extensive exchange program is carried on with other mountaineering clubs and conservation groups.

The Colby Library has several important special collections, including much correspondence of John Muir, and many of Muir's photographs. The library houses the Sierra negatives of Cedric Wright and Joseph LeConte. The Frederick Morley Memorial Collection includes photographs by Vittorio Sella and Fred Boissonnas. The library holds extensive pictorial document of the club's early outings along with portfolios and exhibits done by Ansel Adams, Cedric Wright, Philip Hyde, Richard Kauffman, and Elliot Porter. There has also been some work done with oral history. rl

ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

Dartmouth College: Located in Hanover, New Hampshire, this Ivy League college has a reputation for attracting students who excel in both academic and outdoor pursuits. The library collections, established in 1769 with the founding of the college, support both areas of excellence. Books and periodicals on mountaineering are part of the general social science and

humanities collection, housed in Baker Library. The collection ranked seventh in our comparative study, and ample funding insures continued growth. Two special collections pertaining to mountaineering are also located in Baker: the White Mountain Collection, containing literature about this nearby wilderness region; and the archives of the Dartmouth Outing Club, which includes the fifty year old Dartmouth Mountaineering Club. Baker Library also owns and continues to build Arctic explorer Dr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson's collection on polar regions. The Stefansson Collection catalog has been published (Dictionary Catalog, 1967). vs

Princeton University: The distinguished New Jersey college counts among its alumni four notable historians of mountaineering: J. Monroe Thorington, James Ramsey Ullman, Henry F. Montagnier, and David A. Robertson. Several of these gentlemen have bequeathed extensive private book collections to their alma mater. Ullman's manuscripts and personal papers are part of Princeton's Firestone Library Rare Books and Manuscripts Collection. Mountaineering books and periodicals are shelved with the general collection in Firestone. In 1985, the Curator of Western Americana stated that the collection was strongest in pre-1960 mountaineering publications. It is not clear whether this strength is being maintained through current book buying. However, it ranked third overall in this study. The library does maintain long runs of major mountaineering periodicals. vs

University of California, Berkeley: The mountaineering collection at the UC-Berkeley is based on the Bancroft Collection, a collection of history of Western North America, concentrating on California and Mexico. As a result the collection contains several backruns of Sierra Club publications that are available nowhere else. As a large library its collecting habits are such that it was able to rank 11th overall in this study. There has been no concerted effort to acquire mountaineering materials except as noted above. The library has very few periodical backruns, most of which can be found elsewhere. rl

University of California, Los Angeles: For the scholar interested in mountaineering, this is the library to visit. UCLA is the home to the Farquhar Collection. In 1969 Francis and Marjory Farquhar made the deed of gift of this 2,000 volume collection to assure that his books would be "accessible to mountaineers, especially to young people desiring to climb mountains." What is unfortunate is that this collection is not housed together, but is part of a larger 'special collections' room which is closed to the public. One must request to see a book. It would be fun to be able to browse this collection. Alas! However the librarians are helpful, and in addition to the special collections catalog, there is a shelf list of the Farquhar Collection that one may browse. You will have to ask to see it.

The UCLA library is not actively seeking to expand its

mountaineering collection; however, the strength of the Farquhar collection and the library's general collecting habits are sufficient to rank UCLA second in this study. It is interesting to note that several titles from Neate were not in the Farquhar Collection, but elsewhere in the library system.

In addition to books, UCLA has all the major mountaineering journals, many of which are part of the Farquhar Collection. The library also has an extensive collections in California history and Western Americana which contain information that is of interest. rl

University of Colorado, Boulder: The Boulder Campus is close to several prime Colorado climbing areas, and the student body, the faculty and the surrounding community include a number of avid climbers. It has been established practice at CU to respond to this interest by purchasing current books and periodicals on climbing for the general collection in the Norlin Library. A separate Mountaineering Collection was established in 1977 by Library Director Clyde Walton, a veteran of the U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division. Its two areas of strength are Colorado mountaineering and Himalayan climbing, with a special focus on the early Everest expeditions. Housed in the Norlin Library Rare Book Room, under the auspices of the Special Collections Department, the Mountaineering Collection was enriched by several significant gifts including the Hart Collection, given by a former AAC President. In 1981, the AAC Rocky Mountain Regional Depository was moved from the Denver Public Library to the CU

Special Collections Department. In the area of periodicals, the Norlin Library general collection maintains subscriptions to the more popular climbing magazines, while the Mountaineering Collection concentrates on obtaining out of print rarities. It also has a small but interesting collection of old climbing equipment catalogs.

The combined holdings of the Norlin Library placed CU fifth in overall holdings in this study. This figure may under represent the true strength of the collection. When visited in 1986, the CU Mountaineering Collection was one of the best funded in the country. It has a significant acquisitions budget, an attractive physical setting, a knowledgeable staff, and has enjoyed adminstrative support. These assets, in turn, reassure potential donors that their gifts will be appropriately housed. CU is actively collecting personal papers, correspondence, manuscripts, and photographic materials pertaining to mountaineering. vs

University of Washington: The University of Washington Library is a prime example of what a large library (4,500,000 volumes) can collect in an area without trying to. Its special interest in mountaineering is centered on its interest in the Pacific Northwest. It has probably helped the University to have Seattle a major mountaineering center and that there is lots of interest in climbing on campus. The University even has its own climbing wall. Overall, the University ranked 14th in this study. Its holdings were mostly works from this century, and there appears

to be little attempt to build a solid collection. The main strength of this library is in the Pacific Northwest. Periodical holdings are few and scattered; only the most significant are purchased. Its special collections include the archives of the Mountaineers. Included in the Mountaineers' archives are summit registers for not only peaks ' Washington, but Oregon as well. rl

University of Wyoming: When visited in 1987, the University of Wyoming American Heritage Center was housed in Coe Library, but scheduled to move into its own building when construction was complete. AHC was established in 1945 as the Western History Research Center. Theoretically, the collection focuses on Western U.S. History, but the mission statement does not seem to deter AHC from accepting almost anything of interest. Logically enough, this Laramie, Wyoming facility is the central repository for primary source material on the history of mountaineering in the Tetons, including the W.H. Owen file concerning the debate over the first ascent of the Grand. However, it doesn't stop there. If you want to see H.W. Tilman's 1936 Nanda Devi diaries, go to AHC. You want Vera Karamov's 1978 Annapurna Expedition correspondence? It's in there. The Director makes it a practice to write prominent people in many fields of endeavor, including mountaineering, soliciting their personal papers for AHC.

The Center is interested primarily in unpublished archival material, including correspondence, manuscripts, photographs, scrapbooks, and business files, but accepts books, periodicals

and objects as part of larger gifts. The photo collection contains over 500,000 items. Other materials are grouped into 12,000 different collections, some organized by subject and some by personal name. The staff will gather material and mail photocopies on request for a fee. However, it is difficult to ascertain if AHC has what you might need there other than by a personal visit. The staff is helpful, courteous and professional, but overworked. Allow plenty of time, and expect things to be particularly chaotic during the move into the new building.

The University of Wyoming Libraries are administered separately from the American Heritage Center. There are some books on the history of mountaineering in the general collection. Current purchasing on the subject is limited to material pertaining to Wyoming. In 1987, a periodical cancellation project cut the number of subscriptions pertaining to mountaineering to four titles, of which two were general outdoor recreation magazines.

The combined resources of the University of Wyoming ranked 17th in this study of book holdings. However, the American Heritage Center certainly deserves a high rating for its wealth of unpublished source material. vs

Yale University: The Curtis Mountaineering Collection, founded in 1961 as a memorial to a Yale alumnus, is shelved separately in an open area in Cross Campus Library. The primary focus is on mountaineering in New England and the Alps. To a lesser extent,

the collection also includes material about other parts of the world. Collection building, funded by endowment income, is active for both new books and older materials. The collection includes some journal back sets, but no current subscriptions. It has its own author/title/subject catalog, as well as being listed in the main catalog.

The Curtis Collection, which numbered about 750 volumes when visited in 1985, is only the visible tip of a massive collection. Yale University has over forty libraries scattered around the campus, many of which maintain closed stacks. Mountaineering books and periodicals, including current subscriptions, remain in the libraries that acquired them. The holdings of the Yale Libraries, collectively, ranked sixth in this study. They were identified through the Main Card Catalog in Sterling Library. Periodical holdings are strong, including long runs of major mountaineering journals, but also miscellaneous issues of minor club newsletters. vs

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Denver Public Library: At one time, DPL maintained a seperate collection of mountaineering books. However, around 1980, DPL reassessed its policies, and decided to disperse its mountaineering collection. The material is now shelved in open stacks throughout the Central Library building, by call number. Concerned that this change of policy would result in damage or loss, the AAC Board of Directors voted to move its Rocky Mountain

Depository Collection from DPL to the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1981. DPL continues to maintain subscriptions to local newsletters and the better known climbing magazines, and to purchase new books on the subject to meet popular demand, but its tenth place ranking in this study is based on past strengths. That may change. In November, 1988, it was announced that DPL's Western History Department and the Colorado Historical Society are establishing a joint resource center for the archives and artifacts of the World War II infantry unit, the Tenth Mountain Division (Library Hotline, 11/14/88). vs

Library of Congress: The Library of Congress is one of the world's great libraries. Its 20 million volume book collection is housed in three monumental marble buildings, literally across the street from the U.S. Capitol. Orginally created to serve the needs of the U.S. Congress, "By the time the Library reached the twentieth century, it had made all knowledge its province, and was trying to accumulate everything that was known by all cultures" (Goodrum, 1988, p. 3). Mountaineering is a very minor topic in that realm, but it is collected with great thoroughness, as evidenced by LC's number six overall ranking in this survey.

There are a number of service points through the Library of Congress. The Social Science Reading Room on the fifth floor of the Adams Building is probably the best place for a mountaineering researcher to start, since the majority of the climbing literature is housed in that building.

The Library of Congress periodical collection includes long

runs of major mountaineering journals. A random check revealed that the Library does not maintain current subscriptions to all the foreign titles in its holdings. LC is not a good source for minor U.S. mountain club newsletters.

The Library of Congress Manuscripts Division collects journals, letters and personal papers of individuals of historic interest, particularly those pertaining to the history of the United States and the Americas. Explorers and exploratory expeditions are topics for active collection building, but mountaineering per se is not.

The Library of Congress catalog is accessible in print and online in most college, university and large public libraries. Consult your local librarian. vs

Los Angeles County Public Library, Malibu: The Malibu Public Library is the home to the AAC's Arkel Erb Memorial Mountaineering Collection. This collection of over 2500 books, journals and maps was put together by Ruth and Arkel Erb over a twenty-year period. After Arkel's death while climbing in the Himalayas, their collection was given to the AAC by Ruth with the stipulation that the collection be housed in the Southern California area. The collection includes material on North American mountaineering, the Andes, the Alps, the Himalayas, Great Britain, New Zealand, Japan and Africa. The Erb collection is shelved separately. In addition, there are some few other mountaineering titles listed in the card catalog. It is a tribute to the Erbs that the library built around this collection ranks

12th overall in this study. The periodical collection includes long runs of the major mountaineering journals. rl

New York Public Library: LeRoy Jeffers was a librarian, a mountaineer, and a remarkable organizer. Employed by the New York Public Library, he arranged for NYPL to be the custodian for the newly formed American Alpine Club Library. By 1916, he had convinced fourteen other outdoor organizations, including the Mazamas, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and the Sierra Club, to make NYPL a depository library, sending it free copies of all club publications (Jeffers, 1916). By 1926, he had organized seventy-one clubs and societies into the Associated Mountaineering Clubs of North America (Jeffers, 1926). In the years following his untimely death, the AAC moved its library into its own club headquarters, NYPL integrated the once separate collection of mountaineering books into its general collection, and the Associated Mountaineering Clubs of North America disbanded; but Jeffers' hidden legacy remains.

The New York Public Library Research Library, the big building with the lions on Fifth Avenue, "does not collect sports books," according to the Head of the Public Catalog, yet the catalog revels riches that makes NYPL number three in overall ranking in this study. The collection hasn't grown much. Jeffers reported that NYPL owned 1,300 mountaineering titles in 1926; Williams estimated the figure to be 1,800 in 1975 (Williams, 1975); a 1985 search of the catalog revealed only a few additions in the last couple of years. However, given the

methodology of this study, which places emphasis on "classics," it measures up very well. NYPL Research Library maintains about twenty current subscriptions to periodicals pertaining to mountaineering. Additionally, it owns long runs of older mountaineering club publications, thanks to Jeffers' depository arrangements. vs

Teton County Public Library: The Huff Memorial Library, located in Jackson, Wyoming is what you might expect of a library housing a major mountaineering collection. The building is a well-kept log structure. The mountaineering collection, centered around an AAC depository collection, is shelved separately. This collection is supplemented by some local purchases which are shelved in the main collection. While the collection only ranked 18th in this study, it is an active one. The AAC appears to be actively building its depository here, and there were many books in the backlog awaiting processing. The library staff recognizes the local interest and some local money was also being spent on collection-building when the library was visited in 1987. The Library has few periodicals, only the better-known ones, and no special collections. It would be a pleasant place to spend a rainy week reading some of your favorite authors, but not the place to do serious research. rl

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Table I
Books in Mountaineering Collections based on
Cox, Classics in the Literature of Mountaineering
(By Type of Library and Ranking)

	Number of Books	Percent Holdings	Overall Ranking
CLUB LIBRARIES			
American Alpine Club	89/91	98	2
Mazamas	77/91	85	9
Appalachian Mountain Club	75/89	84	10
Mountaineers	72/91	79	11
Sierra Club	70/91	77	12
Colorado Mountain Club	56/91	62	14
National Geographic	43/91	43	18
New York Racquet Club	42/90	47	18
Mountaineering Foundation	39/91	43	19
Explorers Club	27/91	30	20
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club	11/91	12	21
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES			
UCLA	91/91	100	1
Princeton	88/91	97	3
University Colorado-Boulder	84/90	93	6
Yale	81/89	91	7
Dartmouth	79/91	87	8
University California-Berkley	77/91	85	9
University Washington	55/91	60	15
University Wyoming-Laramie	48/91	53	17
PUBLIC LIBRARIES			
New York Public Library	87/91	96	4
Library of Congress	86/91	94	5
Denver Public Library	71/90	79	11
Los Angeles County, Malibu	68/91	75	13
Yosemite	52/90	57	16
Teton County Public Library	43/90	47	18

Note: The Mazamas and University California-Berkley tied for 9th

Table II
Books in Mountaineering Collections based on
Neate, Fifty Books in Mountaineering
(By Type of Library and Ranking)

	Number of Books	Percent Holdings	Overall Ranking
CLUB LIBRARIES			
American Alpine Club	51/51	100	1
Mazamas	48/51	94	4
Mountaineers	45/51	88	7
Appalachian Mountain Club	44/51	86	8
Sierra Club	40/50	80	11
New York Racquet Club	14/20	70	14
Colorado Mountain Club	28/51	54	17
Mountaineering Foundation	21/51	41	19
Explorers Club	19/51	37	20
National Geographic	18/51	35	21
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club	8/51	16	22
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES			
University Colorado-Boulder	50/51	98	2
Princeton	47/51	92	5
UCLA	47/51	92	5
Dartmouth	46/51	90	6
Yale	46/51	90	6
University Washington	39/51	76	12
University California-Berkley	38/51	74	13
University Wyoming-Laramie	24/50	48	19
PUBLIC LIBRARIES			
New York Public Library	49/51	96	3
Library of Congress	48/51	94	4
Denver Public Library	43/51	84	9
Los Angeles County, Malibu	42/51	82	10
Yosemite	34/51	66	15
Teton County Public Library	30/47	64	16

Mazamas and Library of Congress tied for 4th

Table III
Books in Mountaineering Collections based on
Cox, Classics in the Literature of Mountaineering
and Neate, Fifty Books in Mountaineering (combined)
(By Type of Library and Ranking)

CLUB LIBRARIES

	Number of Books	Percent Holdings	Overall Ranking
American Alpine Club	123/125	98.4	1
Mazamas	108/125	86.4	8
Appalachian Mountain Club	104/123	84.6	9
Mountaineers	101/125	80.8	10
Sierra Club	95/124	76.6	14
Colorado Mountain Club	71/125	56.8	17
Mountaineering Federation	54/125	43.2	20
National Geographic	50/125	40.0	21
Explorers Club	37/125	29.6	22
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club	15/125	12.0	23
New York Racquet Club	Not all items checked in Neate		

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

UCLA	121/125	96.8	2
Princeton	118/125	94.4	4
University Colorado-Boulder	117/124	94.3	5
Yale	110/124	88.7	7
Dartmouth	108/125	86.4	8
University California-Berkley	99/125	79.2	12
University Washington	85/125	68.0	15
University Wyoming-Laramie	63/124	54.8	18

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

New York Public Library	119/125	95.2	3
Library of Congress	117/125	93.6	6
Denver Public Library	100/124	80.6	11
Los Angeles County, Malibu	96/125	76.8	13
Yosemite	75/124	60.5	16
Teton County Public Library	66/122	54.1	19

Note: Tie for 8th between The Mazamas and Dartmouth

Table IV
Abbreviations of Libraries checked

Adirondacks	Adirondcks Mountain Club
Alpine	American Alpine Club
Appalachian	Appalachian Trail Club
Colorado MC	Colorado Mountain Club
Dartmouth	Dartmouth University
Denver PL	Denver Public Library
Explorers	Explorers Club
LACO (Malibu)	Los Angeles County Library Malibu Branch
Libr Cong	Library of Congress
Mazamas	Mazamas
MFC	Mountaineering Federation of Chicago
Mountaineers	Mountaineers
Nat Geog	National Geographic
NYPL	New York Public Library
PATC	Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
Princeton	Princeton University
Racquet	Racquet Club
Sierra	Sierra Club
UC Berkeley	University of California-Berkeley
UCLA	University of Californai-Los Angeles
UCol Boulder	University of Colorado-Boulder
U Washington	University of Washington
U Wyoming-Coe	University of Wyoming-Coe Library
Vail	Vail Public Library
Yale	Yale University
Yosemite RC	Yosemite Research Center